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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/586,618

07/19/2006

Peter Bleckert

4147-178

8206

23117 7590 07/16/2009
NIXON & VANDERHYE, PC
901 NORTH GLEBE ROAD, 11TH FLOOR
ARLINGTON, VA 22203

EXAMINER

THIER, MICHAEL

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2617

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/16/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/586,618	Applicant(s) BLECKERT ET AL.	
	Examiner MICHAEL T. THIER	Art Unit 2617	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 July 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 34-66 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 34-36, 38-41, 43-51, 53-56 and 58-66 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 37, 42, 52 and 57 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 July 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 7/19/2006, and 9/21/2006 have been entered and considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 34, 36, 38-40, 44-49, 51, 53-55, and 59-66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Allison et al. (US 2002/0159387).

Regarding claims 34, 49, and 65. Allison teaches a method of handling messages in a mobile communications system (title and abstract), comprising the steps of:

transferring a message (par. 10, i.e. SMS) and associated first hardware identification data of an intended terminating receiver of the message (par. 10, i.e. MSISDN of receiving mobile reads on hardware identification data since it is a mobile station ISDN number) from an application node (par. 10, i.e. MSC) to a message controller (par. 10, i.e. SMSC, the MSC transmits the SMS message and the MSISDN of the receiving mobile to the SMSC, thus reading on the limitation as claimed);

interacting between the message controller and a location updated subscriber

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database (par. 10, i.e. the SMSC sends a message to the HLR, i.e. the location updated subscriber database, using the receiving mobiles MSISDN that the SMSC received from the MSC);

further managing of the message based on the first hardware identification data and data stored in the location updated subscriber database (par. 10, i.e. the HLR responds with the IMSI of the recipient and the MSC with which it is currently registered (based on the MSISDN of the recipient provided to the HLR), and if the information indicates the mobile is registered with an MSC, the SMSC can deliver the short message. Therefore, the further managing clearly takes place based on the MSISDN and data stored in the HLR (i.e. the IMSI and current MSC)).

Regarding claims 36 and 51. Allison further teaches wherein the step of interacting in turn comprises the steps of:

sending the first hardware identification data from the message controller to the location updated subscriber database (par. 10, i.e. the SMSC sends the short message to the HLR and the HLR uses the recipients MSISDN (i.e. hardware identification data), which is provided to it by the SMSC as well);

whereby the first hardware identification data is used in the location updated subscriber database to retrieve an address, if any, of a switching or support node presently handling hardware defined by the hardware identification data (par. 10, i.e. the HLR responds with the IMSI of the recipient and the MSC with which the recipient mobile is currently registered, thus the address of the MSC is retrieved by the HLR from its database); and

returning the address of the switching or support node, if any, from the location updated subscriber database to the message controller (par. 10, i.e. the HLR responds with the IMSI of the recipient and the MSC with which the recipient mobile is currently registered.);

whereby the step of further managing comprises initiating of a transmission of the message to the address of the switching or support node. (par. 10, i.e. the SMSC then transmits a message to the MSC)

Regarding claims 38 and 53. Allison further teaches transferring mobile subscriber identification data associated with the message from the application node to the message controller. (par. 10, i.e. MSISDN can also read on mobile subscriber identification data)

Regarding claims 39 and 54. Allison further teaches wherein the mobile subscriber identification data is a mobile subscriber ISDN number. (par. 10, i.e. MSISDN)

Regarding claims 40 and 55. Allison further teaches wherein the step of interacting in turn comprises the steps of:

sending the mobile subscriber identification data from the message controller to the location updated subscriber database (par. 10, i.e. the SMSC sends the short message to the HLR and the HLR uses the recipients MSISDN (i.e. which also reads on subscriber identification data), which is provided to it by the SMSC as well);

retrieving an address, if any, of a switching or support node presently handling a mobile subscriber defined by the mobile subscriber identification data and second

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hardware identification data associated therewith (par. 10, i.e. the HLR responds with the IMSI of the recipient (i.e. second hardware identification) and the MSC with which the recipient mobile is currently registered, thus the address of the MSC and the IMSI of the mobile is retrieved by the HLR from its database based on the MSISDN); and

returning the address of the switching or support node and the second hardware identification data from the location updated subscriber database to the message controller. (par. 10, i.e. the HLR responds with the MSC with which the recipient mobile is currently registered and the IMSI of the mobile.)

Regarding claims 44 and 59. Allison further teaches wherein the first and second hardware identification data comprises at least one of subscriber identification module identification data and mobile equipment identification data. (par. 10, i.e. the IMSI reads on subscriber identification module identification data and mobile equipment identification data or MSISDN reads on mobile equipment identification data)

Regarding claims 45 and 60. Allison further teaches returning at least one of subscriber identification module identification data and mobile equipment identification data from the location updated subscriber database to the message controller. (par. 10, HLR sends the IMSI of the recipient mobile to the MSC)

Regarding claims 46 and 61. Allison further teaches wherein the message is a short message service--SMS--message (par. 4 and 10) and the message controller is a SMS controller (par. 10, i.e. SMSC).

Regarding claim 47. Allison further teaches wherein the location updated subscriber database is home location register (par. 10, i.e. HLR).

Regarding claim 48. Allison further teaches wherein the switching or support node is a mobile switching centre. (par. 10, i.e. MSC)

Regarding claims 62 and 66. Allison teaches a communications system node having location updated subscriber database (title, abstract, par. 10, i.e. MSC node and HLR), comprising:

storage for address and hardware identification data associated with mobile subscribers (par. 5-6 i.e. HLR is a database to store information about subscribers, such as IMSI, MIN, MDN, and MSISDN, further see par. 10);

means for updating content of the storage (par. 5, see where it is explained the HLR has identifications of the MSC with which the subscriber is "currently" associated, thus the content can be updated to allow for knowing the current MSC the mobile is located in, rather than an old MSC);

receiver for hardware identification data associated with an intended terminating receiver of a message from a message controller (par. 10, i.e. the SMSC sends the short message to the HLR and the HLR uses the recipients MSISDN (i.e. hardware identification data), which is provided to it by the SMSC as well);

means for retrieving an address, if any, of a switching or support node presently handling hardware defined by the hardware identification data from the storage (par. 10, i.e. the HLR responds with the IMSI of the recipient and the MSC with which the recipient mobile is currently registered, thus the address of the MSC is retrieved by the HLR from its database); and

sender for sending the address of the switching or support node presently

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handling hardware defined by the hardware identification data to the message controller. (par. 10, i.e. the HLR responds with the IMSI of the recipient and the MSC with which the recipient mobile is currently registered.)

Regarding claim 63. Allison further teaches wherein the sender further comprises means for sending hardware identification data to the message controller (par. 10, i.e. the MSC transmits the SMS message and the MSISDN of the receiving mobile to the SMSC).

Regarding claim 64. Allison further teaches wherein the location updated subscriber database is a home location register. (par. 5 and 10, i.e. HLR is a database)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 35, 41, 50, and 56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allison et al. (US 2002/0159387) in view of Mizell et al. (US 2003/0126435).

Regarding claims 35 and 50. Allison teaches the limitations of the previous claims. He teaches using the provided MSISDN to search the HLR for a corresponding IMSI and MSC which reads on a comparison that the further managing is based upon (i.e. since the message will be sent to the user if the information indicates the recipient

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is currently registered with the HLR, par. 10).

However, he does not specifically disclose the idea of comparing the first hardware identification data and hardware identification data stored in the location updated subscriber database.

Mizell teaches a method, device, and node for authentication an originator of a data transfer (title and abstract). He teaches in par. 26 that the IMSI of the mobile (hardware identification data) can be compared with the IMSI stored in the HLR.

Therefore it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to utilize the teachings as in Mizell, with the teachings as in Allison. The motivation for doing so would have been to allow for authenticating the mobile terminal (par. 26).

Regarding claims 41 and 56. The combination further teaches wherein a comparing step being performed in the message controller, comparing the first and second hardware identification data (Mizell par. 26, as explained in the rejection of claims 35 and 50 above); and whereby the step of further managing comprises, if the first and second hardware identification data are equivalent, an initiating of a transmission of the message to the address of the switching or support node (Allison teaches initiating a transmission of the message to the address of the switching or support node based on a comparison in par. 10 where he explains if the information indicates the mobile is currently registered (i.e. using the provided MSISDN to compare to data stored in the HLR to find the IMSI) with the HLR the SMSC transmits a short message to the MSC).

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6. Claims 43 and 58 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allison in view of Mizell as applied to claims 41 and 56 above, and further in view of Brune et al. (US 6993320).

Regarding claims 43 and 58. Allison and Mizell teach the limitations of the previous claims.

However, they do not specifically disclose wherein the step of further managing further comprises, if the first and second hardware identification data are non-equivalent, sending of an error message to the application node.

Brune teaches a method and apparatus for accessing telecommunications services (title and abstract). He teaches the idea of comparing a first hardware identification data with a second hardware identification data and if they do not match, sending an error message back to an application node in column 6 lines 22-32. He explains that the HLR will check the provided IMSI to see if it is registered, and if not, sends an error report back to the VLR. The idea of checking to see if the IMSI is registered reads on seeing if two identification data are equivalent since the HLR will check the provided IMSI against all of its registered IMSI (and thus a second identification data) and if there is no matching IMSI (i.e. the provided IMSI is not registered), the error message is sent.

Therefore it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to utilize the teachings as in Brune with the teachings as in the combination of Allison and Mizell. The motivation for doing so would have been to allow

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for proper authentication to obtain access to a mobile network. (Brune column 5 lines 49-60)

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 37, 42, 52, and 57 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHAEL T. THIER whose telephone number is (571)272-2832. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 7:30-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Edouard can be reached on (571) 272-7603. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/MICHAEL T THIER/
Examiner, Art Unit 2617
7/14/2009